

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

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R 022044Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 119
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 6462

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF, SHUM, AR, CI
SUBJECT: EXTENSION OF CHILEAN PAROLE PROGRAM

REF: A) SANTIAGO 5548; B) STATE 158130; C) BUENOS AIRES 4307

1. WE BELIEVE THE SUGGESTION BY EMBASSY BUENOS AIRES TO EXTEND THE CHILEAN PAROLE PROGRAM TO COVER ARGENTINA HAS MERIT. WE OURSELVES HAD ORIGINALLY PROPOSED TO INCLUDE IT. APPROVAL FOR THIS ACTION WOULD ALLOW THE USG TO MEET IMMEDIATE HUMANITARIAN NEEDS. AT THE SAME TIME IT WOULD PROVIDE TIME FOR THE REFUGEE SITUATION IN ARGENTINA TO BE CLARIFIED.

2. WE WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT, HOWEVER* THAT EVEN A SMALL PROGRAM FOR 30 TO 50 HEADS OF FAMILIES WILL PRESENT SEVERAL PROBLEMS:

A) MINIMUM PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS IN ARGENTINA WOULD BE A CONSULAR OFFICER, AND, AN INS OFFICER, TO CONDUCT INTERVIEWS OF ALL APPLICANTS, NOT JUST 30 TO 50, AND THE TIME OF TWO SECRETARIAL STAFF, ONE OF WHOM WOULD BE INVOLVED IN EXTENSIVE RECORD KEEPING. EMBASSY CONSULAR STAFF SHOULD BE PREPARED TO ASSUME THIS LOAD.

B) EMBASSY SANTIAGO WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO SUPPLY PERSONNEL FOR AN ARGENTINE PROGRAM. THERE IS NO INS OFFICER HERE, AND OUR ONE CONSULAR OFFICER AND TWO STAFF PERSONS CURRENTLY INVOLVED IN THE CHILEAN PAROLE PROGRAM ARE FULLY OCCUPIED BY REQUIREMENTS
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HERE. ALL PERSONNEL FOR BUENOS AIRES WOULD PRESUMABLY HAVE TO BE

TDY.

C) THE TIME REQUIRED TO ESTABLISH A PROGRAM FOR 50 HEADS OF FAMILIES WILL BE THE SAME AS THE START-UP TIME FOR A MUCH LARGER PROGRAM. AS WE HAVE LEARNED, THESE KINDS OF PROGRAMS ARE FRONT-END LOADED. FIXED COSTS ARE HIGH.

D) AN EXTENSION OF THE CHILEAN PAROLE PROGRAM TO ARGENTINA WOULD PUT ADDITIONAL BURDENS ON OUR OWN PROGRAM. SECURITY AND VITAL STATISTICS CHECKS ARE VERY TIME-CONSUMING.

3. NONE OF THE ABOVE PROBLEMS IS OVERRIDING, BUT ALL MUST BE FACTORED INTO A DECISION ON THIS MATTER.

POPPER

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